

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiner Reifsnyder for his assistance in clearing up the confusion that has arisen with respect to the claims due to the PCT Amendment. To eliminate this confusion, Claims 1-24 have been canceled and replaced with new Claims 25-49 which generally track the subject matter of the original claims except for certain amendments as discussed in greater detail below. The specification and drawings have also been amended to resolve the objections thereto.

More particularly, Fig. 1A has been submitted for approval to replace original Fig. 1. Fig. 1A has been labeled as prior art as suggested by the Examiner. Fig. 1B has been submitted to show a hydrocyclone with a closed overflow outlet as claimed in original Claim 17 (now new Claim 42). Fig. 1C has been submitted to show a hydrocyclone with an underflow and overflow outlet coupled together as claimed in original Claim 18 (now new Claim 43). A proposed new Fig. 2 is attached herewith which corrects the reference numeral for the region 39 of the inlet chamber shown in Fig. 2; reference numeral 38 refers to the second sealing ring 38 in Fig. 4. The specification has been appropriately amended to reflect these changes to the drawings. As also requested, an abstract of the disclosure has been submitted herewith on a separate page.

Turning now to the claims, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 2, 5, 6/(2-4), 9, 12-14, and 23 comprise allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, and if certain of the claims are rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. By this Amendment, the claims have been so amended so as to place the application in condition for allowance.

Specifically, the subject matter of original Claim 1 and Claim 2 is now set forth in new original independent Claim 25. The subject matter of new Claims 26-36 track the subject matter of old Claims 3-13. The subject matter of Claim 14 has been split into new Claims 37 and 38 to remove improper alternative language. The subject matter of new Claims 39-45 track the subject matter of old Claims 15-21. Claim 46 comprises the subject matter of old allowable Claim 2 that is now rewritten as a method claim depending from independent method Claim 45. New Claims 47 and 48 track the subject matter of old Claims 22 and 23. Original allowable Claim 2 was also rewritten as new dependent method Claim 49, depending from independent Claim 48. The various 112 objections raised by the Examiner have also been addressed. As now amended, it is believed that Claims 25-49 are all in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant hereby requests a two month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action. Credit Card payment form no. PTO-2038 in the amount of \$210.00 is enclosed to cover the official filing fee. Any fee deficiency or overpayment may be charged or credited to applicant's Deposit Account No. 07-0130.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims now in the application (namely, Claims 25-49) are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the application at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SINKER ET AL.



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Enclosures: U.S.P.T.O. Form 2038 in the amount of \$210.00

Four (4) sheets of drawings

Postcard

Abstract

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